

## Building Blocks Success Stories

Our vision is national security through responsible information sharing. Building Blocks is a knowledge management tool designed to help our partners build responsible information sharing by reading and sharing best practices and lessons learned. [Share your content.](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

### How can I use Building Blocks?

These are success stories about how government agencies and organizations have successfully built responsible information sharing. We will keep updating this area with new stories, so [sign up for email updates](#) <sup>[2]</sup> to stay informed or [share your success story](#) <sup>[1]</sup>.

## The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative

The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) is a comprehensive program that has standardized law enforcement methods for gathering, analyzing, and sharing information about suspicious activities. NSI is most commonly known to the public through DHS's "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign, which encourages the public to report suspicious activity to the proper state, local, or tribal law enforcement authorities, who can then report and share appropriate information with fusion centers and the FBI, as necessary.

NSI is a collaborative effort led by the DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in partnership with DHS, FBI, and state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners; however, many more stakeholders were involved in the development of this program. [Learn about engaging your stakeholders in the Communications & Partnerships Building Block.](#) <sup>[3]</sup> In developing the program, the Program Manager for the ISE and the committees of the White House Information Sharing Council (now the Information Sharing and Access Interagency Policy Committee (ISA IPC)), reached out to privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties advocacy groups, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Democracy and Technology, and the Freedom and Justice Foundation. Learn about the decision-making authority and accountability bodies and the ISA IPC in the Governance Building Block. Collaborating with these advocacy groups helped strengthen the privacy protections within the initiative, including in the functional standard of the Reports. [Learn about standards in the Standards & Interoperability Building Block.](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

Next, based on direction from the White House, BJA established the NSI Program Management Office (PMO), which supports and oversees this responsible information sharing effort. [Learn about establishing Governance bodies like the NSI PMO.](#) <sup>[5]</sup> Then, to help the state and local government and law enforcement partners implement the program, DOJ BJA released grant opportunities, which required certain standards-based acquisitions. [Learn more about standards-based procurement and acquisition in the Acquisition Building Block.](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

As of March 2012, NSI has reached over 14,000 law enforcement agencies in 46 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also, nearly 250,000 first responders have received

NSI training, and 68 fusion centers have the capability to contribute and share Reports. At the federal level, 72% of respondents to the 2012 ISE Performance Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ) reported some level of participation in the NSI, and 83% of agencies reported forwarding validated SARs to the NSI. [Learn about how the Budget & Performance Building Block can help in developing performance metrics for your organization.](#) [7]

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**Links:**

- [1] <http://www.ise.gov/contact%3Fdestination%3Dthank-you-your-inquiry>
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